

HARVEST GATHERING PUTS FOOD ON THE TABLE

In a letter to state employees, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm emphasizes the importance of the Michigan Harvest Gathering.



"This fall marks the 18th year of the Michigan Harvest Gathering, an annual food and fund drive in which state employees have been a major partner. This year's state employees' campaign begins October 13 and runs through October 24.

"The food and funds collected through the Michigan Harvest Gathering benefit the Food Bank Council of Michigan's member food banks and more than 2,500 community agencies throughout Michigan. All food donations go to local food banks and all funds are directly used to purchase and transport food items.

"The face of hunger in Michigan includes working families who must choose between making the mortgage payment and heating their homes or buying food. It includes children growing and developing without adequate nutrition, seniors choosing between using their money for medicine or food, individuals and families facing health issues or emergencies, and those struggling to just make ends meet."

- Governor Jennifer M. Granholm

The Michigan Department of Corrections can lead the way in the effort. With 17,000 employees, we have the numbers to make this the biggest harvest gathering ever, at a time when people need it most. One in ten Michigan citizens will be in need of food this year. Nearly 40% of them are children.

To kick-start the Harvest Gathering activities this year, Grandview Plaza will hold a Chili Cook-off on October 9, 2008 around the noon hour. There will also be special casual days and other activities to foster food and monetary donations. If you would like to make an online donation, or to learn more about the Harvest Gathering, please visit: www.feedmichigan.org.

Officer Recruit Training Begins in UP and Lansing

New officers are being trained in Kinross and Lansing. Nearly 200 new officers will complete the two academies, eventually

filling vacant positions throughout the Department. The new officers will help reduce overtime and fill positions vacated through necessary promotions, retirements, and transfers. The Kinross Graduation is October 31, 2008.

Instructor Chris Click (in red) demonstrates defensive tactics to recruits.



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NEW ARUS PILOT PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

The Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) and the Michigan Civil Service Commission are introducing pilot "Alternate Education and Experience Requirements" for the Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor (ARUS) position within the MDOC. The pilot started on October 1, 2008 and will run until September 30, 2009.

The pilot is designed to provide greater opportunities for employees who are interested in the position by considering those who possess an associate degree and have two years of experience involving regular contact with prisoners in a correctional facility within the MDOC.

Previously, applicants must have had an associate degree in one of several specific concentrations or college credits equivalent to an associate degree with 20 credits in one of the specified concentrations, or a bachelor's degree in one of the specified concentrations. They also would have had to have work experience equivalent to two years at the Corrections Officer E9 level or one year equivalent to the Corrections Officer E10 level. A few other employment classifications also supported eligibility to qualify for an ARUS position.

If you possess an associate degree and have worked for two years with regular prisoner contact in a correctional facility, you may be eligible for an ARUS position. This pilot creates a larger potential applicant pool and gives newer employees who are interested in advancement the chance to be considered for an ARUS position.

According to the Michigan Civil Service Commission:

Eligible candidates may apply by completing the **CORRECTIONS NONPROFESSIONAL SUPERVISORS EXAMINATION APPLICATION** (CS-102_4081). You must attach a photocopy of your official college transcripts to the application. Student and computer-generated copies are not accepted. Write on the top of the application "**ARUS PILOT**" and give it to your Human Resources (HR) Office in the DOC. The HR Office will forward your application to the Civil Service Commission, Office of Classifications and Selections, Team 2 for processing.

If you meet the pilot requirements and have already taken and passed the 4081 examination for other classifications, complete the *Adding Names to Applicant Pools form* (CS-1706). Write on the top of the form "**ARUS PILOT**" and give it to your HR Office who will forward it to Civil Service for processing.

Applicants who meet the pilot requirements and have previously taken the 4081 exam and have a passing score for the ARUS classification may have their names added to the applicant pool. Names will remain active on the applicant pool only for the length of time deemed appropriate by the Office of Classifications and Selections based on the success of the pilot.

Questions may be directed to the following Civil Service telephone numbers:

Lansing: (517) 373-3030 TTY: (517) 335-0191
Outside of Lansing Toll-free: 1-800-788-1766





MSI FACTORY TOUR IMPRESSES JAPANESE AUTO COUNCIL

The Japanese National Automobile License Plate Council toured Parr Highway Correctional Facility's (ATF) license plate factory on September 10, 2008. The factory, operated and supervised by Michigan State Industries employees and staffed with prisoner workers from ATF, makes license plates for all Michigan motor vehicles and trailers, including a variety of specialty plates. Specialty plates include universities, patriotic plates, special causes (e.g. wildlife fund, children's education, lighthouse restoration), and personalized license plates.



Council members observe and note the operation of a stamping machine run by a prisoner worker.

The National Council was impressed with the precision and efficiency of the factory. They commented on the organization and the ability of prisoner workers to keep pace with the presses that stamp out license plates. The Council also liked the wide selection of license plates offered to Michigan citizens.

MSI and ATF were proud to represent the Michigan Department of Corrections during the tour. They were pleased to have met everyone from the Japanese National Automobile License Plate Council and hope that the tour was beneficial.

GRPD PROMOTES IN-REACH



The Grand Rapids Police Department (GRPD) is cutting-edge when it comes to the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative (MPRI) and its facility In-reach programs. Lieutenant Ralph Mason and Officer Terry Dixon visited Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility (IBC) on September 24, 2008 to discuss the role of law enforcement in supporting offenders who return to the community.

Mason explained how law enforcement officers and returning felons can work together. He attempted to break down walls of fear, mistrust and resentment that so many offenders hide behind.

Both GRPD officers provided offenders with tips for success when dealing with law enforcement. Tip number one was stressed frequently - "Do what we ask you to do." Other tips included being polite, owning up to mistakes, and keeping yourself away from criminal behavior and those who commit criminal behavior.

Both Mason and Dixon stressed that law enforcement has a duty to act



whenever they are called to a situation, but they let the offenders know that they are also approachable. They want to help keep these returning offenders crime-free and out of prison. Doing so requires that the offenders participate. As citizens, they have to respect their neighbors, and those who live there. They have to make the right choices - about housing, education, employment, and acquaintances.

Offender success in the community results in fewer crimes, safer communities and smaller prison populations. Grand Rapids police know that all of those things are good for their city, and ultimately good for Michigan's citizens.





QUITTER'S CORNER



The American Cancer Society recommends four steps to quitting smoking. The first step is often the most difficult.

You have to make the choice to quit. Only you can choose to make it happen. If you have thought about quitting, why not make the choice today. Tell yourself that you are going to quit and set a date. Write it on your calendar, put it in your BlackBerry, or place a sticky note on your dashboard. When that day comes, quit.

Set a date and choose a plan of action to quit. Choose a day that allows you to get a plan in place, but not too far away for you to rationalize backing out of your choice. The plan should include how you are going to quit.

You must deal with withdrawal symptoms. Overcoming the physical and psychological addiction to tobacco is difficult. You must be ready to confront withdrawal. You may need medication, but you can also use positive self-talk, relaxation techniques, a change in habits, or increased activities including moderate exercise if the doctor allows it.

You have to continue to be a quitter. This is hard. Relapse can start with just one cigarette. Choose to avoid alcohol, as this activity reduces your chance at success. If you are worried about weight gain, exercise more. Channel your concerns about quitting into a daily exercise program. If you slip and use tobacco, focus on the opportunity to reinforce your serious commitment to quitting rather than an excuse to start again.

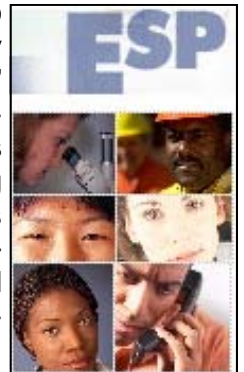
Only you can choose to quit using tobacco. For some it's pretty easy. For others, it's very hard, but there isn't a non-smoker out there who, after their lungs cleared up and they were able to breathe again, says, "I wish I still smoked." For more information, click on the American Cancer Society icon:



FOR THE HEALTH OF IT

NATIONAL DEPRESSION SCREENING DAY OCTOBER 10, 2008

Have you ever sprained an ankle? One minute you are walking along fine, then you step on an uneven surface, your ankle bends hard to one side, the pain shoots up your leg and you go down in a heap. Your ankle starts to swell, throb and hurt so much you can't put any pressure on it, let alone walk on it. In many ways, depression is the emotional version of a sprained ankle. Just like a healthy ankle that will become injured when subjected to extreme physical stress, healthy emotions can become "injured" when subjected to extreme emotional stress. Instead of symptoms such as physical swelling, bruising and loss of motion, depression has symptoms of sadness, loss of energy, difficulty concentrating and irritability. Both responses are expected, medically-based reactions. It would be surprising if an ankle didn't get sprained when subjected to stresses that exceed the limits that the joint was intended to bear. Sometimes life events stress our emotions beyond the limits they are expected to bear as well.



Treatment for depression is highly effective and can make the difference between normal functioning and chronic medical problems that limit your activities. Friday, October 10, 2008, is National Depression Screening Day. If you have concerns about the emotional stresses you have encountered, or symptoms that you may be experiencing, please visit the Employee Service Program's free, confidential, interactive depression screening. The screening is anonymous, takes about five minutes to complete and can be the first step to improved health and well-being. You may access the screening by logging onto www.mentalhealthscreening.org/screening (keyword "espmi") or by calling 1-800-887-5676. The free screening will address the risks for suicide, bipolar disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder and depression. For further information regarding depression or the screening program, contact your Employee Service Program at (517) 373-7630 or 1-800-521-1377, Monday thru Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00pm.





STATE PAYS TRIBUTE TO FALLEN PROBATION/PAROLE AGENT

Like so many corrections professionals, Parole/Probation Officer Gary Andrews took pride in every aspect of his career with the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC). He also shined in his private life - a life that included his wife Sarah and their five children. He worked with young athletes at a local fitness club, and at age 46, became a world record holder for "drug-free" power lifting in his age group.

Gary was a quiet, yet dedicated professional who led others with integrity. On December 1, 2007, Gary died unexpectedly of a heart attack. It was a shock to his family and co-workers who, for so many years, relied on his strength. Those who knew him will remember him for his generosity and strength of character.

Earlier this year, the State of Michigan paid tribute to Gary, recognizing his distinguished career with the MDOC and his personal achievements. State Representative Kevin Elshenheimer presented Gary's wife Sarah with the "special tribute" authorized by the 94th Legislature and signed by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, Rep. Elshenheimer, and Senator Tony Stamas. Gary gave 20 years of dedicated and superior work to the people of Michigan, providing a remarkable legacy for those who follow in his footsteps.

Thank you Gary

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

BY JOHN C. CORDELL

There is ebb and flow to life - ups and downs, good and bad, happy and sad. Most of the time we roll with it. We bob up and down as the waves push us toward shore. We paddle steadily toward the shore when the waves push us away. We are having fun in the water, but what happens when the waves get too big? What happens when we lose sight of shore? It's how we choose to deal with those moments that define us.

Life is like that. We decide to sink or swim. Someone close to me just found out she has cancer. She is floating in the waves right now. She can see the shoreline on the crest of each wave, but it's getting farther away as the waves push her out to sea. There are many people on shore who are yelling their support, and even some willing to get in the water to help. But ultimately, the decision to swim toward the safety of the shoreline rests only with her. I hope she chooses to swim. Life here on shore is worth the effort.

2007 Officer of the Year Steve Houck is a cancer survivor. While his war with this horrible disease continues, he has won many battles and is on the road to recovery. With the support of his faith, friends, family, and co-workers, Steve chose to swim to shore. Welcome back Steve - from a long, hard swim. It's nice to see you on solid ground again. - JC





PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



BLOOD DRIVES HELP LOCAL BLOOD BANKS

Several recent blood drives have helped replenish local blood banks. With recent hurricanes along the Gulf Coast and flooding in the Midwest, the American Red Cross is in desperate need of blood and related products.

Pugsley Correctional Facility (MPF) held a blood drive with several incentives for employees. If staff donated 40 pints of blood, Food Service Director Mike Burgess would shave his

head. However, if staff donated 45 pints of blood, Assistant Deputy Warden (ADW) Kevin Smiley agreed to get a 1/4 inch buzz cut. Anyone that knows ADW Smiley can attest to the fact he has (or had) a healthy head of hair.

MPF employees stepped up to the plate and hit a blood donation home run. They donated 54 pints of blood. In addition, a silent auction was held to buy the right to shave Burgess' and Smiley's heads. Lois Darrow was the winning bidder to shave Burgess' head and in an odd twist of karma, Burgess was the winning bidder to shave Smiley's head.

Donors also won prizes for their efforts. Diane Gram won a \$50 gas card donated by the MPF Employee Club; Les Parish, Pauline Sedelmaier, and Chris Baynton each won a T-shirt.

In addition to the blood drive, the MPF Employee Club held a cookout and raised \$115 for the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Cadillac.

At Grandview Plaza, 57 people attempted to donate blood. In all, 46 pints of blood were collected, surpassing the goal of 40 pints.

FOA STAFF AWARDED FOR SERVICE EXCELLENCE

On August 15, 2008 Field Operations Administration Deputy Director John Rubitschun and Regional Administrator Michael Glynn presented Supervisor Frank Messer and Agent Patrick Heath with the Department's Valor Award for securing the crime scene involving the shooting of a parolee that occurred outside the Lawton Parole Office. Deputy Regional Administrator Todd Boyd presented Supervisor Noah Nagy with the Department's Professional



Mike Burgess (green shirt) and Kevin Smiley
with and without hair.



See FOA AWARDS, page 7





PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



From FOA AWARDS, page 6

Excellence Award for his conduct in reporting and assisting MSP with an unreported murder investigation that led to the arrest and conviction of a parolee. Area Manager Warren Wilson and Supervisor Sonia Warchock presented Agent Cheryl Evans and Agent Denise Welhusen-Huttenlocker with the Department's Meritorious Service Award for their assistance with an unreported murder investigation that led to the arrest and conviction of a parolee.



Above: Warren Wilson presents Denise Welhusen-Huttenlocker with her award.



Above Left: John Rubitschun (left) presents Pat Heath with his award. Above Right: Frank Messer (right) receives his award from Mike Glynn.



Left: Sonia Warchock (left) presents Cheryl Evans with her award

Right: Todd Boyd (left) presents Noah Nagy with his award.



OCF FUNDRAISER HELPS STRICKEN TEAM MEMBER

Corrections Officer Matt Kaurala of Ojibway Correctional Facility (OCF) has been struggling with a very rare disease that causes significant trauma throughout his body. The treatment is long and difficult, and Matt may not recover from some of the damage the disease has done to his body. His prognosis is very positive however, and he is expected to eventually return to work as a corrections officer.

To help defray mounting expenses to the family associated with the treatment, staff at OCF held a fundraising cookout and 50/50 raffle on July 30, 2008. The event, organized by OCF Human Resource Assistant Tina Grbavcich, raised a total of \$1,350 for Matt and his wife Angela, who also works at OCF. Several staff members donated food for the cookout. Super One Foods of Ironwood also donated a \$100 gift card to the family. Matt has worked at OCF for eleven years and was named the facility's Corrections Officer of the Year in 2001.



Angela Kaurala (left) accepts OCF's donation to help with family expenses from Tina Grbavcich.





PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



SMF OFFICER EARNS CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Corrections Officer Rich Rudowski of the Standish Maximum Correctional Facility (SMF) and four others have been honored as heroes in the city of Oscoda. Rudowski joined a police officer, the city fire chief and two citizens in an attempt to rescue three children who fell through thin ice while playing. Two of the children, ages 6 and 9, were rescued from the frigid water by two neighbors who witnessed the incident. Upon arriving at the scene, the police officer dove into the water without a rescue line in search of the third child, a six-year-old. When it was determined that the child was unable to be rescued, Rudowski pulled the weary police officer to safety. Officer Rudowski and the other rescuers put their own lives in danger and portrayed exemplary courage in attempting to save the children's lives.



For his actions, the Michigan Department of Corrections presented Officer Rudowski with the Department's Citizenship Award. Regional Prison Administrator Jeri-Ann Sherry presented the award to him during a ceremony at SMF on September 17, 2008. Rudowski is also the facility's 2008 Officer of the Year.

NEWBERRY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY SUPPORTS SPECIAL OLYMPICS



In support of Special Olympics Michigan, Newberry Correctional Facility (NCF) employees recently held a bratwurst cookout at the facility. To raise even more money for the cause, they sold hats and T-shirts. The cookout and apparel sale resulted in a total donation of \$1,108 for Special Olympians.



Pictured Left to Right: Becky Nylander, Jim Belles, Cathy Bauman, and Dawn Badder.

CAMP OTTAWA DONATES TO LOCAL SHELTER

Prisoners at Camp Ottawa (COT) recently donated hand-crocheted hats to the local domestic abuse protection shelter in Iron River, MI. Resident Unit Manager Keith Hamel of COT noticed a couple of prisoners crocheting fine quality hats. He approached the prisoners about donating their crafts. Not only were the prisoners willing to donate, but they used their own yarn to create several more hats for the shelter in infant, youth, and adult sizes.

